North Carolina State University hosted a forestry workshop at the Hofmann Forest that was attended by roughly 75 foresters and forestry professionals. There were plenty of NCFA members in the crowd! The program featured speaking a speaking program in the morning and was followed by a field tour of the Hofmann.

Deanna Mary Watzin welcomed the group to start the program that included presentations from Dr. Steve McKeand, Forestry and Environmental Resources Professor and Director of the Tree Improvement Cooperative, Dr. Tom Gower, the Department Head of Forestry and Environmental Resources, Dr. Rachel Cook, Forestry and Environmental Resources Assistant Professor and Co-director of the Forest Productivity Cooperative, and William Peete, Executive Director of Working Land Trusts.

The three day camp hosted over 250 students, teachers and parents. The students participated in hands on and interactive lesson plans about dendrology, mensuration, ecology and history. As with the camp tradition, day three was competition day!

NCFA staff would like to thank the following volunteers for their time this week. Many of our camp volunteers were veterans, but several were newcomers.

Gregory Albert
Jadie Andrews
Jason Bowman
Danny Brasington
Richard Cockerman
David Johnson
Brendan McLoughlin
Bobby Myers
Amelia McDowell

Amy Phillips
Justin Query
Adam Ricci
Christa Rogers
Marshall Thompson
Duane Truslow
Derek Ware
John Willis
Matt Wolfe

(continued on page 6)
Political News & Regulatory Issues

NCFA RENEWS TRAINING AGREEMENT WITH NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Larry Wooten, the President of the North Carolina Farm Bureau, was presented with a lifetime membership to the NCFA by current NCFA President Bernard Rose last month at the North Carolina Farm Bureau’s home office in Raleigh. Wooten is a tremendous advocate for agriculture and forestry!

The NCFA frequently partners with the North Carolina Farm Bureau on regulatory and legislative issues that would impact agriculture and forestry.

In addition, the North Carolina Farm Bureau frequently hosts the NCFA’s larger meetings during the year.

THE NCFA SAYS THANKS TO A SPECIAL LEADER

“The First in Forestry” license plates are available for purchase from the NC Division of Motor Vehicles online and at offices throughout the state. $20 goes toward forestry education programs in the state on each purchase.

Forestry License Plate
Staff at the KapStone facility in Roanoke Rapids demonstrated their appreciation for the folks who deliver chips and wood fiber to their mill in October with their annual Truck Driver Appreciation Day.

The Appreciation Day was scheduled to coincide with the National Truck Drivers Appreciation Week in September, but the threat of Hurricane Irma forced staff to postpone the event to this week. And judging by the bright blue sky - it was a great call!

“We use this day to thank our drivers,” explained Bernard Rose, the Operations Manager - Fiber Supply for KapStone. “We give them a gift or two that is typically tied to safety. This year it is hard hats, flags and safety glasses. We also take the time to bring any new safety issues we are concerned with. Like this year, we have a new traffic pattern starting with our new crane operating. So that is something we will review. Then, we take their lunch order.”

So with clip boards in hands, Rose and fellow forester Joey Briggs move up the line of log and chip trucks waiting to weigh in. The KapStone Mill prides itself on its quick turn times. With two cranes now in operation, the turn times will surely improve, but on this day, the drivers didn’t mind sitting a few extra minutes in line.

A couple of hot dogs, chips, soft drink and a new hard hat, glasses and load flags are worth a few minutes of time.

The Appreciation Day got underway at 10:00 a.m. and by 12:30 p.m. the KapStone staff were already seeing repeat traffic. The hot dogs and snack delivery went on until 3:00 p.m.

In addition to KapStone staff, Forestry Mutual Insurance Company was on site as safety representatives Chris Huff and Brian Macanka were on hand to deliver some Team Safe Trucking materials and general safety information.

The Appreciation Day is a long-standing tradition at Kapstone.

“It’s a great way to say Thank You, and remind our drivers that they are important to us and what we try to achieve at Kapstone,” stated Rose. “We want them safe. We want them to keep coming back.”

HEATHY AND DIVERSE MARKETS PRODUCE HEALTHY FORESTS

By Pryor Gibson, Executive Vice President, North Carolina Forestry Association

Recently, there was a guest editorial about North Carolina’s forest products industry that had a familiar ring to it. In the late 1990’s, alarming statements were made that chip mill facilities would result in the “rapid snowballing of forest destruction” in North Carolina and the southeast. This full-scale marketing campaign led North Carolina elected officials to conduct a series of statewide public hearings and eventually, an academically researched and state sponsored Chip Mill Study.

The study exonerated the forest products industry and concluded the biggest threat to North Carolina’s forests was the overall urbanization of the state.

So what has happened on the ground since the study? Thanks to the stewardship of the over 500,000 private forestland owners in cooperation with forest products professionals, North Carolina boasts some 18.6 million acres of forestland.

This is an amazing achievement considering the urban growth in our state over the past 20 years! Over 85 percent of North Carolina’s forests are still privately owned, and over two-thirds of these forests are owned by private, non-industrial landowners. Our forests not only provide the starting point for our state’s top manufacturing industry, forest products, but these forests produce clean air, clean water, and a myriad of outdoor recreation activities and economic opportunities for all North Carolinians.

Ask any forestland owner and he/she will tell you that the key to his/her forestland ownership is healthy markets, and the more the better.

In the forestry cycle, trees are planted and harvested on different schedules with various methods to ensure the landowner is meeting his/her forest management objectives. For some landowners, the top priority may be creating habitat for wildlife, or for outdoor recreation, or maybe just for the aesthetics, but in the end, a landowner paying taxes on his/her property will look to generate some financial returns on the investment of owning the land.

Incentivizing landowners to plant trees is our best and often only sustainable model for increasing the amount of healthy forests in our state. The present-use value tax system and cost-share programs are terrific public policy measures, but in the end, the marketplace provides the best and highest return to forest landowners.

Forestry is a long-term investment. Wood chips used in the production of paper or pellets are produced from small diameter trees. The removal of smaller trees is a forest management practice known as thinning, and it creates more space for the remaining trees to grow while improving wildlife habitat for many species. A landowner makes the majority of his/her profit on a timber sale of the larger trees on the property that are manufactured into lumber products.

We have heard the same alarming claims before about this segment of our industry, and each time, the claims have be refuted by academic studies, U.S. Forest Service statistics, and on the ground results. Instead of the blame game, we should be praising our forest products professionals and our farm and forest landowners for their stewardship of our state’s most valuable, renewable resource, trees.

This letter appeared in the Raleigh News & Observer Sunday Letters to the Editors Section (11/4/17) in response to a guest editorial from the Dogwood Alliance. The NCFA appreciates News & Observer Editor Ned Barnett for providing space for an appropriate response by waiving the typical word count.
PROLOGGER ENDS YEAR WITH RECORD CROWD FOR MOUNTAIN COURSE

It might have been the time of year? Maybe it was Mother Nature and all the water she shared on the mountains over the weekend prior to the last class of the year in Marion?

Regardless, the ProLogger Base Class that took place in Marion totaled 52 ProLoggers and an additional six others from the North Carolina Forest Service. This is a huge number for this class, which is typically in the high 30’s or low 40’s for attendance. We had over 25 walkups.

“I did not expect a crowd that size, but we never turn anyone away at the door,” stated Chris Brown, the NCFA’s Senior Director of Communications. “We packed a lot of information and activities into two days. One of the real benefits of this format is the opportunity to build relationships between our different state agencies such as enforcement divisions and our ProLoggers. Our Marion class was no different. We had some great discussions. Thanks to all of our instructors, especially Greg Helton of Forestry Mutual for leading the field portion of the program. Thanks also to Greg Decker of Columbia Forest Products for arranging our lunches.”

The field demonstration portion of the program was directed by Forestry Mutual’s Chain Saw Trainer, Greg Helton. Based in the western part of North Carolina, Helton has the pleasure of dealing with more angles than are found in Piedmont or Coastal courses.

Thursday was no different as Helton set out to take down a few trees pitched on the side of a hill. With wedges in holster, Helton dropped a few while reviewing the five step felling plan and proper PPE use that Forestry Mutual demands from all of its policyholders.

Earlier in the day, the NCFA was assisted by the North Carolina Forest Service and the North Carolina Department of Labor with a field review of the logging site of the Pack Brothers.

On Wednesday, representatives from the North Carolina Highway Patrol, North Carolina Department of Labor, and the North Carolina Forest Service led the class through informative and interactive sessions. Topics included best management practices as well as the rules and regulations that ProLoggers must keep in mind when working in the woods and traveling our state’s roads.

The NCFA would like to thank Greg Decker of Columbia Forest Products and Shannon Buckley of Domtar for providing snacks and delivering lunch on Thursday. ProLoggers in attendance and staff appreciate their support!

Also, thanks to Kell Cleeland of James River Equipment for joining the ProLogger class on Wednesday. Cleeland came with a few dozen of the world’s largest donuts and coffee for the class. We appreciate his support of the program.

With 52 new ProLoggers at Marion, the ProLogger program added 148 new ProLoggers this year. This might be one of the biggest years in the recent history of the program.

MARION ROSTER

Austin Barry  
Autry Michael  
Black, Jr. William  
Bottorff Michael  
Burris Devrie  
Burris Rachel  
Butler Paul  
Carter William  
Conard Jared  
Denny Martin  
Dudley Timothy  
Edney Carroll  
Ferguson David  
Forbes Preston  
Frye Bradley  
Glover Logan  
Gouve Orrin  
Green Kevin  
Harrison Kenneth  
Hooley Ellis  
Hudgins Charles  
Hunter Jonathan  
Kennedy James  
Kennedy Karen  
Krider Marlin  
Lanning Jerry  
Lanning Joey  
Lanning Kenny  
Lindley Jamie  
Martin Jeremy  
Mashburn Jason  
Massey Lewis  
McEntire Ricky  
Millsaps Preston  
Myers Daniel  
Narron Anthony  
Navarro Marcos  
Norton Eddy  
Norton Randall  
Owen Nicholas  
Pack Donnie  
Piveronas James  
Rash Greg  
Ricci Adam  
Robinson Todd  
Ruff Glenn  
Shuford Jacob  
Simmons Holly  
Todd David  
Wagner Roland  
Wilson Brian  
Wyndy Jordan
IP’S LOG A LOAD FOR KIDS GOLF TOURNAMENT RAISES $15,000

Great Job Folks! International Paper’s Larry Maloney, Percy Lunsford, Tonia Burger and Scott Brewer and Canal Wood’s Rudy Daughtry pose for a quick photo at the registration desk prior to the start of the Log A Load Golf Tournament.

Congrats to the International Paper and Canal Wood volunteers who held their annual charity golf tournament at River Landing in Wallace, NC, in October.

“We had a record 19 teams and the most sponsors ever this year, so, Thank You, ” stated International Paper’s Scott Brewer as he addressed the golfers who were ready to enjoy the plush fairways and quick greens at River Landing. “We hope everyone has a great time.”

The scores were low - some lowers than others - but in the end the winner was the Children’s Miracle Network. The tournament typically raises $15,000 through golfers and hole sponsorships.

The NCFA was one of the hole sponsors and staff were happy to play with one of the lead volunteers, Rudy Daughtry of Canal Wood.

After the round of golf, the group enjoyed a nice meal and time of fellowship in the clubhouse. There were (continued on page 6)

Maybe not the lowest score, but this group had the most fun! (l-r) Greg Nobles, Tom Jedrey, Rudy Daughtry and Chris Brown.

Now this is a championship trophy group! H.W. Gore, Robert Smith, Larry Smith, and Ricky Hamilton are joined by Scott Brewer as they celebrate placing in the top three.

SAFETY ALERT

THINK BEFORE YOU ACT

J.J. Lemire, Forestry Mutual Insurance Company

If you can recognize safety hazards you have taken the first step to preventing accidents. Employees and supervisors cannot be so focused on the job that they cannot see what is in front of them. A tailgate safety meeting gives each employee an opportunity to avoid simple mistakes that lead to injuries.

A quick review of the known hazards (broken branches, dead snags, etc.) can provide a situational awareness throughout the day. Sometimes the short “safety talk” becomes extremely important in getting each employee home safely each day.

Being aware of known hazards is only one-half the equation. Making employees aware of past accidents and unknown factors can give them an edge. Your job site can have many hidden dangers, i.e., stump holes, bee hives, poison ivy/oak, etc. You cannot cover every hazard but over a series of safety meetings, you may highlight the one item that will keep your workers safe today.

Look up for overhead hazards and look down for slip, trip and fall hazards.

Another idea that has been shared over time is the two-minute rule. It requires workers to simply take time before starting a job to become aware of the immediate work area and address or discuss unexpected conditions.

Review your work rules to make sure each job site is inspected before work begins. The key to preventing injuries is to reduce or remove the risk. A daily, but brief review of the job site gives each individual time to detect potential risk or abnormalities. If an employee encounters an unfamiliar situation, have them stop and assess the issue before they continue to work.

Use the two-minute rule to assess the area

1. Explore the jobsite – walk the area to identify unsafe conditions:
   • Safety hazards (overhead or ground)
   • Other hazards – weather, visibility
   • Use the right tools – a step ladder instead of a 5-gallon bucket
   • Terrain – water, mud, etc.

2. Talk with coworkers when an unexpected condition occurs:
   • Report the hazard
   • Eliminate the hazards
   • Install a barrier or develop procedures to avoid the hazard if it cannot be removed.
   • If a breakdown occurs, always lockout and tagout the machinery before work is started.

Deadlines, quotas, breakdowns, and weather can create stressful situations and sometimes safety is not a priority. Avoid the following pitfalls that lead to accidents:

• Rushing without thinking
• Think the job is routine or mundane
• False sense of security that nothing bad will happen
• Not notifying other workers of the hazard
• Not listening to your gut that says this is not safe.
SECRETARY PERDUE URGES CONGRESS TO FIX FIRE FUNDING PROBLEM

During the National Association of State Foresters’ annual meeting in Charleston, West Virginia, this fall, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue urged State Foresters to join in calling on Congress to address the way the U.S. Forest Service is funded. Currently, the agency has to borrow money from prevention programs to combat ongoing wildfires.

Secretary Perdue believes Congress should treat major fires the same as other disasters and be covered by emergency funds so prevention programs are not raided.

“As good as you are, and as well as you know the Forest Service, there’s no way you can manage the Forest Service, not knowing what you’re going to have to spend,” stated Perdue during his address. “That is not the way appropriations should work. I’ve communicated that to OMB, I’m communicating that to members of Congress, I’ve communicated that to the president. And by golly, we hope we’re going to get something done about it this year. I think the momentum is there, along with other disasters.”

Charlotte Forestry Camp...(from page 1)

Please keep in mind, we are always looking for volunteers - no experience in teaching needed - Amy Juliana will train you! If you would like to volunteer to teach at a camp in the future, please contact Amy Juliana at (800) 231-7723 ext. 2 or ajuliana@ncforestry.org.

NCFA ESSAY CONTEST TOPS 1,000 ENTRIES

The NCFA’s new National Forest Products Week Essay Contest, which closed October 28th, surpassed the 1,000 entry mark! The contest is broken down into three age groups - 3rd-5th grades, 6th-8th grades, and 9th-12th grades. Students are given the choice of three essay prompts: 1) Trees are a renewable resource because... 2) My favorite forest product is... 3) If I was a forester, I would...

The winners will be notified by December 1st. Prizes will include a $200 visa gift card for the winning student in each category and the teacher of the winning essay will also receive a $100 visa gift card for classroom materials and a scholarship to attend the 2018 Sustainable Forestry Teachers Experience.

Special thanks to our sponsors N.C. Forest Service, the North Carolina Sustainable Forestry Initiative Implementation Committee, and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture.
NCSU Hosts Workshop at Hofmann...(from page 1)

awareness about the strength of the natural resources programming among high school students and first year students. Overall, North Carolina State University continues to enjoy tremendous popularity and with the increase in applications, the average grades and test scores for first year students continues to skyrocket. And while Gower believes that is a great thing, he also sees the need to take the extra step to reach out to some of the late bloomers out there.

“I guess, looking back, I probably would have been considered in that group,” stated Gower with a chuckle as he introduced the Connect Program.

The Connect Program is designed to offer an alternate path for students who applied to majors in the Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources NC State but were not accepted to get individualized pre-advising and course experience. CONNECT students apply to the program. If accepted, they attend Summer Session II at NCSU as a non-degree student. During this five-week experience, they complete two college courses and participate in related field experiences. At the close of Summer Session II, the students attend the 2 or 4 year institution of their choice and the following spring if they have a 3.0 GPA or higher they receive automatic admission to transfer to NCSU in an FER major beginning the next fall semester.

The afternoon portion of the workshop focused on the Hofmann Forest. With nearly 80,000 contiguous acres, it is one of the top areas for forestry research in the country. The Hofmann has been the testing ground for countless field experiments and tests.

Dr. Steve McKeand hosted the first stop on the tour on a site that he specifically put into place several years ago to demonstrate to forest landowners the power of good genetics. He planted three different genetic families on one portion of the Hofmann Forest just across from the main office.

The first family was a wild Loblolly. The second was a genetically improved Loblolly with specific traits and rating. The third was another genetically improved Loblolly with specific traits and even higher rating.

Standing from well-maintained service road, McKeand pointed to the three rows.

“While most of you are foresters and get the importance of genetics, this is a great demonstration to show landowners what happens,” stated McKeand.

McKeand took the time to post information in front of each row on a paper mounted on wooden marker. The information stated what the naked eye could see. The first row was just 38 feet high, 10% saw timber and 40% fusiform rust. The second was 46 feet, 60% saw timber, and 30% fusiform rust. The third was 48 feet, 80% saw timber and 0% fusiform rust.

On a larger scale, McKeand complemented Hofmann’s forest managers for their use of genetically improved seedlings in selective areas since 2002. He estimates that the improved value of the forest in those areas by 2-3 million dollars. The genetics are that good. The tour continued for a few more stops in the Hofmann, demonstrating different activities going on across the forest.

In accordance to the recent timber deed agreement signed between North Carolina State University and Resource Management Service LLC (RMS), which is a privately held timber investment management organization known for its leadership in sustainable forest management practices, RMS now manages 54,334 acres of the Hofmann.

RMS forester Cierra Ward led the tour group to an active thinning operation of Jamie Broadway, a NCFA ProLogger since 1995. The group enjoyed the chance to see the operation up close and ask a few questions on the thinning operations and the different markets available for the thinned timber.

With a slight breeze in the air, the legendary mosquitoes of the Hofmann were not much of a factor in what was an informative workshop on forest management genetics, techniques and field applications.

Congratulations to North Carolina State University’s Sam Cook, John Sanders and Jennifer Viets; and Tony Doster and Cierra Ward of RMS for an outstanding workshop. Special thanks to Jamie Broadway for hosting the group.
(l-r) NCFA ProLogger Jamie Broadway and RMS Forester Cierra Ward pose for a photo during North Carolina State University’s workshop at the Hofmann Forest.